

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 01460 301448Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2723

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 1460

EXDIS

FOR ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, NU
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: DEPARTMENT'S CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY ON
NICARAGUA

REF: (A) STATE 69015; (B) MANAGUA 1027; (C) MANAGUA 1122;
(D) MANAGUA 1317

1. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT EXTENSIVE EMBASSY REPORTING ON THE COMPLEX HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA (E.G., REFTELS B, C AND D) DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN USED IN PREPARATION OF BRIEFING MATERIALS FOR ADMINISTRATION WITNESSES AT MARCH 24 HEARING ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE BEFORE LONG SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE (REFTEL A). IF DEPARTMENT WITNESSES ALLOW ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT TO STAND AS DOCUMENTED FACTS AND DO NOT EXPRESS RESERVATIONS REGARDING MISREPRESENTATIONS AND UNBALANCED STORIES IN THE U.S. PRESS, THE IMPRESSION IS INEVITABLY CONVEYED TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES THAT DEPARTMENT UNCRITICALLY ACCEPTS ALLEGATIONS AND STORIES. IT MAKES SUBSEQUENT REASONED AND BALANCED EXPLANATION OF U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH NICARAGUA MORE DIFFICULT.

2. WITH RESPECT TO LONG SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE,
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 01460 301448Z

REFTELS B AND C POINTED OUT INACCURACIES AND OVERSTATEMENTS IN N.Y. TIMES AND TIME MAGAZINE STORIES. REFTEL D GAVE AN UPDATED APPRAISAL BY SENIOR CHURCH OFFICIALS AND EMBASSY OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THAT IS LESS CRITICAL AND MORE BALANCED THAN IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY THESE STORIES. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT U.S. CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WHICH HAS BEEN EXPRESSED FORCEFULLY AND REPEATEDLY TO THE GON. BUT AT SAME TIME, WE ARE TROUBLED THAT

DEPT APPEARS TO BE ALLOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CONGRESSIONAL
GROUNDSWELL FOR PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST NICARAGUA WHICH IS NOT
BASED ON OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION, WILL NOT ACHIEVE
OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, AND WILL BE
DETRIMENTAL TO U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS.

3. PLEASE ADVISE IF THERE REMAINS ANY FURTHER CONTRIBUTION EMBASSY
CAN MAKE IN PREPARATION FOR APRIL 5 SPECIAL HEARING.
THEBERGE

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Message Attributes

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